

WIT

- Wit* lying most in the assemblage of ideas, and putting those together with quickness and variety, wherein can be found any resemblance, or congruity, thereby to make up pleasant pictures in the fancy. Judgment, on the contrary, lies in separating carefully one from another, ideas, wherein can be found the least difference, thereby to avoid being misled by similitude. *Locke.*
- Cou'd any but a knowing prudent cause
Begin such motions, and assign such laws?
If the great mind had form'd a different frame,
Might not your wanton wit the system blame? *Blackmore.*
3. Sentiments produced by quickness of fancy.
All sorts of men take a pleasure to gird at me. The brain of this foolish compounded clay, man, is not able to invent any thing that tends more to laughter, than what I invent, and is invented on me. I am not only witty in myself, but the cause that wit is in other men. *Shakespeare.*
His works become the frippery of wit. *B. Johnson.*
The Romans made those times the standard of their wit, when they subdu'd the world. *Sprat.*
The definition of wit is only this; that it is a propriety of thoughts and words; or, in other terms, thoughts and words elegantly adapted to the subject. *Dryden.*
Let a lord once but own the happy lines;
How the wit brightens, and the style refines! *Pope.*
4. A man of fancy.
Intemperate wits will spare neither friend nor foe; and make themselves the common enemies of mankind. *L'Estr.*
A poet, being too witty himself, could draw nothing but wits in a comedy: even his fools were infected with the disease of their author. *Dryden.*
To tell them wou'd a hundred tongues require;
Or one vain wit's, that might a hundred tire. *Pope.*
5. A man of genius.
Searching wits, of more mechanic parts;
Who grac'd their age with new-invented arts:
Those who to worth their bounty did extend,
And those who knew that bounty to commend. *Dryden.*
How vain that second life in others breath?
Th' estate which wits inherit after death;
Ease, health, and life, for this they must resign,
Unsure the tenure, but how vast the fine!
The great man's curse, without the gain endure;
Be envy'd, wretched; and be flatter'd, poor. *Pope.*
6. Sense; judgment.
Strong was their plot,
Their practice close, their faith suspected not;
Their states far off, and they of wary wit. *Daniel.*
Come, leave the loathed stage,
And this more loathsome age;
Where pride and impudence in faction knit,
Uproar the chair of wit. *B. Johnson.*
Though his youthful blood be fir'd with wine,
He wants not wit the danger to decline. *Dryden.*
7. In the plural. Sound mind; intellect not crazed.
If our wits run the wild-goose chase, I have done: for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits, than I have in my whole five. *Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet.*
I had a son,
Now outlaw'd from my blood; he fought my life:
The grief hath craz'd my wits. *Shakespeare. Lear.*
Are his wits late? is he not light of brain? *Shakespeare.*
Sound sleep cometh of moderate eating; he riseth early, and his wits are with him; but the pain of watching, and choler, and pangs of the belly, are with an unrelaxable man. *Ecclesiast. xxxi. 20.*
Wickedness is voluntary frenzy, and every finner does more extravagant things than any man that is crazed, and out of his wits, only that he knows better what he does. *Tillotson.*
No man in his wits can seriously think that his own soul hath existed from all eternity. *Bentley.*
8. Contrivance; stratagem; power of expedients.
How can it chuse but bring the simple to their wits end? how can it chuse but vex and amaze them? *Hooker.*
I was like to be apprehended for the witch of Brainford; but that my admirable dexterity of wit, counterfeiting the action of an old woman, delivered me. *Shakespeare.*
Sleights from his wit and subtilty proceed. *Milton.*
The neighbourhood were at their wits end, to consider what would be the issue. *L'Estrange.*
- WITCHCRAFT. *n. f.* [wit and craft.] Contrivance; invention. Absolute.
He was no body that could not hammer out of his name an invention by this witchcraft, and picture it accordingly. *Camden's Remains.*
- WITCHCRACKER. *n. f.* [wit and cracker.] A joker; one who breaks a jest.
A college of witchcrackers cannot flout me out of my humour; dost thou think I care for a satire or an epigram? *Shakespeare.*
- WITWORM. *n. f.* [wit and worm.] One that feeds on wit; a canker of wit.

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- Thus to come forth so suddenly a witworm. *B. Johnson.*
- WITCH. *n. f.* [picce, Saxon.]
1. A woman given to unlawful arts.
Wife judges have prescribed, that men may not rashly believe the confessions of witches, nor the evidence against them. For the witches themselves are imaginative; and people are credulous, and ready to impute accidents to witchcraft. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
The night-hag comes to dance
With Lapland witches, while the lab'ring moon
Eclipses at their charms. *Milton.*
When I consider whether there are such persons as witches, my mind is divided: I believe in general that there is such a thing as witchcraft, but can give no credit to any particular instance of it. *Addison's Spectator, N° 117.*
2. [From pic, Saxon.] A winding sinuous bank.
Leave me those hills where harb'rough his to see;
Nor holy bush, nor briar, nor winding witch. *Spenser.*
To WITCH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To bewitch; to enchant.
'Tis now the very witching time of night,
When churchyards yawn. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
Me ill befits, that in der-doing arms,
And honour's suit my vowed days do spend,
Unto thy bounteous baits, and pleasing charms,
With which weak men thou witchest to attend. *Spenser.*
I'll witch sweet ladies with my words and looks. *Shakespeare. Sit and witch me?*
WITCHCRAFT. *n. f.* [witch and craft.] The practices of witches. Urania name, whose force he knew so well,
He quickly knew what witchcraft gave the blow. *Sidney.*
If you cannot
Bar his access to the king, never attempt
Any thing on him, for he hath a witchcraft
Over the king in his tongue. *Shakespeare. Hen. VIII.*
People are credulous, and ready to impute accidents and natural operations to witchcraft. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
What subtle witchcraft man constrains,
To change his pleasure into pains. *Denham.*
- WITCHERY. *n. f.* [from witch.] Enchantment.
Another kind of petty witchery, if it be not altogether deceit, they call charming of beasts and birds. *Raleigh.*
Great Comus!
Deep-skill'd in all his mother's witcheries. *Milton.*
- To WIT. *v. a.* [pizan, Saxon.] To blame; to reproach.
The palmer 'gan most bitterly
Her to rebuke, for being loose and light;
Which not abiding, but more scornfully
Scoffing at him, that did her justly wite.
She turn'd her boat about. *Fairy Queen, c. xii.*
- WITE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Blame; reproach.
WIT. *prep.* [wit, Saxon.]
1. By. Noting the cause.
Truth, tir'd with iteration,
As true as steel, as plantage to the moon. *Shakespeare.*
With ev'ry itab her bleeding heart was torn,
With wounds much harder to be seen than born. *Rome.*
2. Noting the means.
Rude and unpolished are all operations of the soul in their beginnings, before they are cultivated with art and study. *Dryden.*
3. Noting the instrument.
Boreas through the lazy vapour flies,
And sweeps, with healthy wings, the rank polluted skies. *Rome.*
By persiflions with large bellows, miners give motion to the air. *Woodward.*
4. On the side of; for.
O madness of discourse!
That cause sets up with, and against thyself! *Shakespeare.*
5. In opposition to; in competition or contest.
I do contest as hotly and as nobly with thy love,
As ever against thy valour. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
He shall lie with any friar in Spain. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*
6. Noting comparison.
Can blazing carbuncles with her compare? *Sandys.*
7. In society.
God gave man a soul that should live for ever, although the body be destroyed; and those who were good should be with him. *Stillingfleet.*
In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a touchy, testy, pleasing fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
There is no living with thee, nor without thee. *Tatler.*
8. In company of.
At the instant that your messenger came, in loving visitation was with me, a young doctor from Rome. *Shakespeare.*
9. In appendage; noting consequence, or concomitance.
Men might know the persons who had a right to regal power, and with it to their obedience. *Locke.*
10. In mutual dealing.
I will buy with you, sell with you, talk with you, walk with you, and so following; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you. *Shakespeare.*
11. Noting

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11. Noting confidence; as *I trust you with all my secrets; or, I trust all my secrets with you.* *Locke.*
12. In partnership.
Though Jove himself no less content would be,
To part his throne, and share his heaven with thee. *Pope.*
13. Noting connection.
Pity your own, or pity our estate,
Nor twit our fortunes with your sinking fate. *Dryden.*
14. Immediately after.
With that she told me; that, though she spake of her father Cremes, she would hide no truth from me. *Sidney, b. ii.*
With that, he crawled out of his nest,
Forth creeping on his catiff hands and thighs. *Fairy Queen.*
In falling, both an equal fortune try'd;
Wou'd fortune for my fall so well provide!
With this he pointed to his face, and show'd
His hands, and all his habit fear'd with blood. *Dryden.*
With that, the God his darling phantom calls,
And from his faltering lips this message falls. *Garth.*
15. Amongst.
Jasper Duke of Bedford, whom the king used to employ with the first in his wars, was then sick. *Bacon.*
Tragedy was originally with the antients, a piece of religious worship. *Rymer's Tragedies of last Age.*
Immortal powers the term of confidence know,
But interest is her name with men below. *Dryden.*
16. Upon.
Such arguments had invincible force with those Pagan philosophers, who became Christians. *Addison.*
17. In consent. Noting parity of state.
See! where on earth the flow'ry glories lie:
With her they flourish'd, and with her they die. *Pope.*
18. With in composition signifies opposition, or privation.
WITHAL. *adv.* [with and all.]
1. Along with the rest; likewise; at the same time.
Yet it must be withal considered, that the greatest part of the world are they which be farthest from perfection. *Hooker.*
How well supply'd with noble counsellors?
How modest in exception, and withal
How terrible in constant resolution? *Shakespeare. Hen. V.*
The one contains my picture, prince;
If you chuse that, then I am yours withal. *Shakespeare.*
This that prince did not transmit as a power, to make conquest, but as a retinue for his son, and withal to enable him to recover some part of Ulster. *Davies's Ireland.*
God, when he gave me strength, to shew withal
How slight the gift was, hung it in my hair. *Milton.*
Christ had not only an infinite power to work miracles, but also an equal wisdom to know the just force and measure of every argument, to persuade, and withal to look through and through all the dark corners of the soul of man, and to discern what prevails upon them, and what does not. *South.*
I cannot, cannot bear; 'tis past; 'tis done:
Perish this impious, this detested son!
Perish his fire, and perish I withal,
And let the house's heir, and the hop'd kingdom fall. *Dryden.*
2. It is sometimes used by writers where we now use with.
Time brings means to furnish him withal;
Let him but wait th' occasions as they fall. *Daniel.*
It is to know what God loves and delights in, and is pleased withal, and would have us do in order to our happiness. *Tillotson.*
We owe to christianity the discovery of the most perfect rule of life, that ever the world was acquainted withal. *Tillotson.*
- To WITHDRAW. *v. a.* [with and draw; from pið, or piðen, Saxon, against, and draw.]
1. To take back; to deprive of.
It is not possible they should observe the one, who from the other withdraw unnecessarily obedience. *Hooker, b. v.*
Impossible it is that God should withdraw his presence from any thing, because the very substance of God is infinite. *Hooker.*
2. To call away; to make to retire.
Nauicaia is withdrawn, and a whole nation introduced, for a more general praise of Ulysses. *Braeme.*
- To WITHDRAW. *v. n.* To retire; to retreat.
She from her husband soft withdrew. *Milton.*
At this excess of courage all amaz'd,
The foremost of his foes a-while withdrew:
With such respect in enter'd Rome they gaz'd,
Who on high chairs the godlike fathers saw. *Dryden.*
Dumvir has pass'd the noon of life; but cannot withdraw from entertainments, which are pardonable only before that stage of our being. *Tatler, N° 54.*
- WITHDRAWING-ROOM. *n. f.* [withdraw and room.] Room behind another room for retirement.
For an ordinary gentleman, a hall, a great parlour, with a withdrawing-room, with a kitchen, butteries, and other conveniences, is sufficient. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
11. Noting

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- WITHER. *n. f.*
1. A willow twig.
An Irish rebel put up a petition, that he might be hanged in a with, and not a halter, because it had been so used with former rebels. *Bacon.*
2. A band, properly a band of twigs; [withe signifies a band.]
These cords and wites will hold men's consciences, when force attends and twists them. *K. Charles.*
Birch is of use for ox-yokes, hoops, screws, wites for faggots. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
- To WITHER. *v. n.* [wēðerþ, Saxon, dry, faded.]
1. To fade; to grow laplefs; to dry up.
That which is of God we defend, to the uttermost of that ability which he hath given: that which is otherwise, let it wither even in the root from whence it hath sprung. *Hooker.*
When I have pluck'd thy rose,
I cannot give it vital growth again;
It needs must wither. *Shakespeare. Othello.*
It shall wither in all the leaves of her spring. *Ezek. xvii. 9.*
The foul may sooner leave off to fufill, than to love; and like the vine, it withers and dies, if it has nothing to embrace. *South's Sermons.*
2. To waste, or pine away.
Are there so many left of your own family, that you should desire wholly to reduce it, by suffering the last branch of it to wither away before its time. *Temple.*
3. To lose, or want animal moisture.
Vain men, how vanishing a bliss we crave,
Now warm in love, now with'ring in the grave. *Dryden.*
- To WITHER. *v. a.*
1. To make to fade.
The fun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth. *Jer. i. 11.*
2. To make to shrink, decay, or wrinkle, for want of animal moisture.
Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety. *Shakespeare's Ant. and Cleopatra.*
Look how I am bewitch'd; behold, mine arm
Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up. *Shakespeare.*
What are these,
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th' inhabitants o' th' earth,
And yet are on't? *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty, which will change
To wither'd, weak, and grey. *Milton.*
In Spain our springs, like old men's children be,
Decay'd and wither'd, from their infancy:
No kindly showers fall on our barren earth,
To hatch the seasons in a timely birth. *Dryden.*
- WITHEREDNESS. *n. f.* [from wither'd.] The state of being wither'd; marcidness.
Water them as soon as set, till they have recovered their witheredness. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
- WITHERBAND. *n. f.* A piece of iron, which is laid under a saddle, about four fingers above the horse's withers, to keep the two pieces of wood tight, that form the bow. *Farrier's Dict.*
- WITHERS. *n. f.* Is the joining of the shoulder-bones at the bottom of the neck and mane, towards the upper part of the shoulder. *Farrier's Dict.*
Let the gall'd beast wince;
We are unwrung in the withers. *Shakespeare.*
Rather than let your master take long journeys, contrive that the saddle may pinch the beast in his withers. *Swift.*
- WITHERUNG. *n. f.* Witherung sometimes is caused by a bite of a horse, or by a saddle being unfit, especially when the bows are too wide; for when they are so, they bruise the flesh against the spines of the second and third vertebrae of the back, which forms that prominence that rises above their shoulders. *Farrier's Dict.*
- To WITHHOLD. *v. a.* [with and hold.] Withheld, or withheld, pret. and part.
1. To refrain; to keep from action; to hold back.
That hand, which as no kind of imminent danger could cause at first to withhold itself, so neither have any practices, so many, so bloody, following since, been ever able to make weary. *Hooker, b. iv.*
Sith mine he is, or free or bound;
Withhold, O sovereign prince, your hasty hand
From knitting league with him. *Spenser.*
The prince
Would fain have come with me to meet your grace;
And by his mother was perforce withheld. *Shakespeare.*
Be careful to withhold
Your talons from the wretched and the bold:
Tempt not the brave and needy to despair;
For though your violence should leave them bare
(Gold and silver, swords and darts remain. *Dryden.*
Volition is an act of the mind, knowingly exerting that dominion it takes itself to have over any part of man, by employing it in, or withholding it from any particular action. *Locke.*
2. To